

David Jamieson

On your Side in the West Midlands



Manifesto for Labour's
Candidate for West Midlands Police and
Crime Commissioner

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My Pledges:

Drive down crime in all our communities

Increase recruitment from 450 to 1000

Equip our police with the best modern technology

Protect Neighbourhood Policing and PCSOs

Help build a successful West Midlands economy.

The fundamental purpose of policing is keeping people safe and secure. This will be my driving ambition for all people in the West Midlands if I am elected for a further term on 5th May 2016.

My Police and Crime Plan which I refreshed last year sets out my ambitions for the police - to respond effectively to criminality and bring offenders to justice.

I have had to manage with a massively reduced budget with cuts bigger than any other force. However, I am proud that West Midlands Police (WMP) has been rated as "outstanding" in efficiency, making the best use of every pound to protect our community.

These are some of the areas in which I will place particular emphasis:

Neighbourhood Policing

Introduced by the previous Labour Government, Neighbourhood Policing lies at the heart of keeping our communities safe. Residents need to know the officers and PCSOs in their area; in turn the police need to know the communities. Close working by local people and those that protect us is the key to a safer place to live, work and bring up our children.

Victims

The needs of victims will always be my top priority.

In January 2015, I launched my Victims Commission, drawn from experts in the voluntary and community sector, who advise me on how to ensure victims' funding is used to best effect and identify gaps in the service. This is the only commission in the country of its type and I will ensure it carries on its good work in supporting those who have been the victim of crime.

I will ensure that those who have been victims of crime receive the support they need to recover from the impact of crime. Particular emphasis will continue to be placed on those who have been subjected to crimes against the person such as rape, domestic violence, child sexual exploitation, hate crime and assault.

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Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

With reduced funding, I have had to make tough decisions over services. However, I have ensured the needs and wishes of local people come first.

Throughout the West Midlands, people have told me how much they value the presence of PCSOs in our community. Introduced by the last Labour government, they have provided excellent back-up to our regular officers and have gained respect from the communities they serve.

There will be no compulsory redundancies of PCSOs.

Recruitment

WMP is one of the few police forces in the country to be appointing new officers. I have made resources available to complete the recruitment of the 450 new officers I promised when I was elected in August 2014.

However, I want to do more. I will expand this programme of recruitment to refresh our police service by increasing our recruitment to a total of 1000 officers and highly skilled staff. I want to bring in young people of the highest quality to join our highly valued, experienced officers in helping keep us safe in the future.

I will ensure that we recruit only the very best people to our force and that they look like the people of the West Midlands.

WMP has not made sufficient use of Special Constables who provide excellent back up to our force. So in addition to full time officers and staff I want to substantially increase the number of 'Specials' in WMP.

New Technology

The West Midlands is a dynamic and changing area with new challenges arriving almost daily. Crime is not going down, it is changing. WMP must be equipped to deal with the changing face of crime that is why I am supporting the creation of a new era in policing through our change programme WMP2020. Our police must harness new technology to enable them to tackle crime effectively in a rapidly changing world.

I will make that investment in new technology so that WMP is more effective in supporting our community. This will include body worn cameras and ready access to digital information on the street for officers, which can save valuable time and make them more effective. Our workforce of officers and staff must be equipped for the future.

In future citizens will be able to track progress online a crime that has been committed against them and report crime on the WMP website.

Economic Success

WMP make a huge contribution to the success of our communities, whether it is helping our industry working by keeping traffic flowing on our roads; creating safer places that encourage investment in new employment; tackling modern-day-slavery; confronting gang culture and organised crime.

Only by integrating our work with the wider economy can we bring down crime and make our communities better places for us to live.

Increasing employment, particularly for young people, is essential to reducing crime. I will continue the work I have started in making safer places where investors want to create new employment.

Creating a successful local economy where individuals and families can flourish must be at the heart of our ambitions.

Economic success is underpinned by decent pay for all. I will ensure by 2017 that all employees of WMP earn at least the Living Wage.

Diversity

The West Midlands is a changing place. Our strength is our diversity. I want to harness that strength to protect the right of everyone to live life and worship freely in a community built on decency and respect for each other.

Our police should look more like the people of the West Midlands. I want a more diverse force that reflects the wide range of different people in our community.

Only by working together in mutual respect can we build our community in the 21st century. We must reject the views of those who want to create divisions and hatred such as the right wing groups who have in recent years descended on us from outside our area.

Mental Health

Too many people with mental health problems are being dealt with by our criminal justice system. Too many people with mental health problems are in our prisons. Tragically, some of those are people who have served their country in the armed services. I am proud to say that WMP has led the way in the UK by working with the local health services to prevent people with mental health problems being taken into police custody when hospital provision was more appropriate.

The street triage system of police and medics working together has been pioneered in the West Midlands – I will build further on that success.

I will ensure this is an area of priority to prevent people with mental health needs from being drawn into the criminal justice system. I will continue to appoint a Mental Health Champion to promote our work across the seven West Midlands local authorities.

Offenders

I will continue to ensure WMP continues to protect the public by identifying offenders and intervening to prevent criminality.

By reducing the number of offenders we reduce the number of victims.

I want to expand the work we are doing to stop people offending and also getting offenders away from their criminal lifestyle. I have invested in a European Social Fund scheme that will help all youngsters find rewarding employment, in particular those who may be tempted

into a life of crime.

I want those funds focussed where the need is greatest, particularly where youth unemployment is highest.

Safe and Secure Road Network

Our roads are the arteries of our economy and good policing can deny access to them by criminals who threaten our livelihoods and our safety.

Currently, delays on our roads following collisions are unacceptably long. This disruption causes jobs to be threatened, factories to be brought to a standstill, hospital appointments not to be met and further risk to life if motorists have to spend hours in freezing cars in traffic jams.

I will work with the police and highways operators to deal with this damage to our economy by insisting on better co-ordination of the essential services. I have pioneered the use of public hearings to make those who operate our major roads answerable to the people of the West Midlands who pay for and use our roads. I will work closely with the Combined Authority to ensure our services cooperate with each other to provide a better service for the public.

Road collisions are the leading cause of death amongst young people and account for a quarter of deaths in the 15 to 19 age group. This is unacceptable in the 21st century. Although much good work has been done by the police and other partners to massively reduce road casualties, I want to work with others to confront those who endanger our lives.

This includes: those who continue to drive whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs, reckless drivers who drive at excess speed on our roads and those who use mobile phones and other electronic devices whilst driving.

When I was Road Safety Minister (2001-2005), I introduced the ban on the use of hand held mobile phones whilst driving and the seizure and crushing of uninsured vehicles.

I want to see effective roads policing and will support local authorities who wish to reintroduce road safety cameras where there is the greatest risk to life.

Cyber and Internet Related Crime

This type of crime threatens our personal welfare and jobs in our area. We must protect individuals and business from cyber criminals and I will put resources into prevention as well protection from this type of crime.

I will work with other services, in particular with business to prevent harm to our wellbeing from cybercrime.

I will support work with schools and communities to help protect children and vulnerable people from fraud, cyber-bullying and grooming.

Governance

I believe WMP is an excellent police force with outstanding leadership.

I will continue to rigorously hold the Chief Constable to account for the actions of the police and that their actions reflect the views and needs of the public.

I will continue with and strengthen my cross-party Strategic Policing and Crime Board. The Board is comprised of people from across the West Midlands who provide expertise to help me in my work.

I will continue to hold meetings in public at least each month which are webcast so that not only do I hold the police to account but also local people can judge me on the work I do.

I will work closely with the Chief Constable to weed out that small number of officers and staff who fall below the high standards expected by the public.

I want to encourage greater involvement of local people to make the police answerable to them in their community and give them the ability to affect policing in their area. The local citizens' panels which have reviewed stop and search in their community have been an excellent example of how everyone can make a contribution to improving policing.

Combined Authority/Metro Mayor

I will continue to work closely with the Combined Authority (CA) and any future Metro Mayor that may be elected on issues where it is essential to coordinate our activities. This will include, creating safe places for inward investment, safety of children, safety on our roads, managing traffic and helping people who suffer from mental health problems.

I will examine the benefits of data sharing with the CA and local authorities so we can better tackle complex issues where it is important that we collaborate and work together.


As required, I will examine if there is value to the people of the West Midlands of integrating the governance of Police and Fire Services with the work of the Combined Authority/Metro Mayor.

Staff Associations and Trade Unions

I value and welcome the contribution that the police staff associations and trade unions make to the work of the police service. I will continue with regular engagement and consultation with them whenever this is appropriate.

Local Representatives

I have had extensive, regular cross party contact with our local members of parliament which has been invaluable in getting the voice of the people of the West Midlands on policing matters heard in Parliament. I place very high value on the role our members of parliament play. I will continue engagement and contact on a cross party basis for the benefit of local people.



David Jamieson

**Labour Candidate for West Midlands
Police and Crime Commissioner**

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